

solve forever the Gordian knot of equality in our citizens' access to health care. Yet, for all its words, commands, prescriptions, and boards in the bill, Richard Foster, the chief actuary of CMS, has laid bare an essential truth about these mandates. Mr. Speaker, they have consequences. On page 10 of his recent report, Mr. FOSTER states unequivocally that this bill will make hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other part A providers unprofitable.

It's clear to me, Mr. Speaker, that while we in Washington can pass words on paper that guarantee all Americans health care, that the doctors and hospitals throughout America may not be around long enough to provide them care. More jobs, Mr. Speaker, lost to wrong-headed policies being forced upon the American people by this majority.

MOVE AHEAD ON HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. We have a debate on health care, but the fundamental question that we face is whether we were going to stick with the status quo or we were going to put a stake in the ground to have a health care system where all are covered and all help pay. We did this, unfortunately, without bipartisan support. The question we now have is making this work. The status quo was broken. We're spending two, three times the rate of inflation, the rate of wage growth. Our businesses can't afford it. We spend more and get less, with 45 million Americans uninsured. Now, folks want to repeal it. That includes provisions where your child can be on your health care policy until age 26; where the doughnut hole is going to finally be closed so seniors can get the prescription drugs they need; where folks who need preventive care and long-term care are going to have access to the care that they need; where there won't be a lifetime cap on coverage, so that if you get really sick and need that, you're going to be able to get access to it.

So now the debate is: Are we going to improve this health care system and this health care bill, and do it together, or are we going to repeal it? I say: move ahead.

WHAT'S IN THE HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, during the recent health debate, the Speaker ominously said, We have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it. Well, they passed the bill, and now we're finding out what's in it.

They told us it would keep costs down. Well, now they admit health

costs will soar \$311 billion, increasing to 21 percent of GDP by 2019.

They told us, If you like your plan, you can keep it. Well, now they admit that seniors on Medicare Advantage could lose their plans. Companies that offer health plans to their employees and retirees are now considering dropping them.

They told us it would be good for the economy. Now they admit employers were correct to downgrade their earnings by billions of dollars that ultimately will come out of employees' wages and benefits.

This issue is not going away. It will continue to plague those responsible until they replace it or until they themselves are replaced.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. The Republicans always want to dwell on distractions, but I believe that the American people are waiting for the health care reform bill to be implemented—and that it will. And it will save lives. But why are the Republicans standing on the side of big business and big companies too big to fail? Now we need the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to be able to respond to America's cry for honesty and integrity on Wall Street.

Right now, one of the biggest Wall Street casinos, Goldman Sachs, is testifying. And I don't know whether they can find the facts to be able to defend atrocious acts causing millions of Americans to lose money. I personally know of a small business that they literally destroyed because they were unwilling to look at ways of allowing that business to survive. And so the \$14 million of net worth loss, \$22 million decline in net worth, and 2.2 million in homes lost is because of the lack of integrity on Wall Street.

Pass the legislation that will end bailouts; protect families' retirement funds; college savings; homes and businesses; protect consumers; and, yes, inject transparency. Goldman Sachs, what is your answer to the question?

WITH AMERICA AT A CROSSROADS, IT IS TIME TO LISTEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, time and again during health care debate, the American people were told that the health care bill would lower costs, and Republicans continually argued that the big government takeover of our health care would actually increase the cost to taxpayers. Well, who was right? The nonpartisan Office of the Actuary at the Centers for

Medicare & Medicaid Services has released its analysis of the new health care law, and the results are very telling, Mr. Speaker.

The actuaries are reporting that the new law will increase health care costs over the next 10 years by \$311 billion, which was much more than the original estimates to both the House and the Senate bills. Published reports have indicated that this report, incredibly, was submitted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services more than a week before the final vote in the House. But that information, of course, was not shared with—at least on the Republican side—Members of Congress or the American people. So much for most open and transparent administration in history and so much for providing the American people with real health care reform that would help lower costs.

America is at a crossroads, Mr. Speaker, in this difficult economy. While the American people spoke out very loudly that they did not want a government health care takeover, Democrats refused to listen.

BUILDING A RECOVERY RIGHT FOR AMERICA

(Ms. SUTTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SUTTON. Congressional Republicans threaten to take us back to the failed policies that created the economic crisis, siding with special interest, Wall Street banks, credit card companies, Big Oil, and insurance companies. These Bush economic and fiscal policies created the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, with job losses of nearly 800,000 a month, and nearly doubled our national debt. Democrats in Congress are working to create American jobs and a strong new foundation for our economy, protecting Main Street and the middle class, not siding with the insurance companies and Wall Street.

This week's news provides evidence that American families are beginning to feel some effects of an economy headed in a better direction. USA Today headlines read: "Economists say recovery looks stronger than expected." Bloomberg says: "Companies in U.S. plan to increase employment, survey shows." The New York Times says: "From the mall to the docks, signs of rebound."

No matter how much they try to side with Wall Street, Democrats will side with the American people and build a recovery and an economy that will work for them.

RAIDING MEDICARE HURTS OUR SENIORS

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, last week, the nonpartisan Centers for

Medicare & Medicaid Services released an actuarial report that shows that the President's new health care law will increase health care costs over and above what was expected; premiums for families and small businesses will rise beyond what was expected; and access to a physician will suffer for many, many Americans. They also showed that the \$500 billion in indiscriminate cuts to Medicare to pay for a new entitlement is a very deep cut that will hurt access to care for many of our seniors. Half of all seniors in the Medicare Advantage program will lose their current coverage. I have 140,000 seniors in my State of Louisiana who depend on Medicare Advantage in rural areas for access to a doctor. They're going to lose that kind of coverage that gives them that valued access to the physician of their choice.

This bill, this law, fails to lower costs. It creates red tape and bureaucracy, and it really does nothing to enhance quality for most Americans.

FROM HEALTH CARE REFORM TO WALL STREET REFORM

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, you've got to give it to my friends on the Republican side of the aisle. They are incredibly consistent. They have sided with the big pharmaceutical industry and the insurance industry. Sadly, they lost that debate, but they want to revisit it with the changes we made in health care and some of the outrageous health insurance practices we outlawed, like preexisting condition exclusions, rescissions of your policy when you get sick, and nonrenewal when you get sick.

But they're also fighting to change the subject here, because they're also trying to stop the reform on Wall Street. Their biggest patrons are the pharmaceutical industry, the insurance industry, and Wall Street. And they just want to protect the status quo for those folks.

Over on the other side of the Hill, the Republicans in the Senate are blocking financial reform—reform of Wall Street, doing away with the abuses that crashed our economy and put millions out of work. And every single House Republican voted against reforming Wall Street here on the floor of the House. Well, two were absent but all those who voted, voted against it. Now they want to change the subject back to health care, except they lost that debate, too.

AS PREDICTED, HEALTH CARE COSTS WILL RISE

(Mr. ISSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I have been here for about 30 minutes listening to

both sides talk past each other. Mr. Speaker, the American people, they get it. They get it that in fact cap-and-trade will increase the cost of doing business; that health care, which is already too big a piece of the family budget, is going up, not down; that government is increasing spending at a time in which the revenue is far less than what we're spending. In fact, 40 percent of the budget is being borrowed. And now we're having the hubris to call financial reform of something that in fact is a financial bailout guarantee.

Under President Clinton and a Republican Congress, Glass-Steagall was eliminated. Why in the world wouldn't we be talking about simply recreating the separation between real banks that the FDIC does have a fund for, created by the banks, and investment banks, which you recognize if they fail, they fail, and you are only guaranteed on the underlying stock.

Mr. Speaker, I call for real reform.

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THE REPEAL REPUBLICANS SIDE WITH THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TO REPEAL POPULAR BENEFITS OF HEALTH REFORM

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, the Repeal Republicans have sided with the insurance industry from day one, ignoring the need for reform when they controlled Congress and opposing reform at every step as Democrats fought for reforms that serve the needs of the American people. The Repeal Republicans really haven't changed. They now want to repeal the reforms, and they will use every deceit, every piece of misinformation, and even outright lies to oppose reform and, in the process, try to protect the industry's profit margin.

When Democrats fought to close the doughnut hole and strengthen Medicare by extending its solvency, the Repeal Republicans sided with the insurance industry and opposed it. Now they want to repeal it. When Democrats fought to allow children up to the age of 26 stay under their parents' coverage, the Repeal Republicans sided with the insurance industry and opposed it. Now they want to repeal it. And when Democrats fought to ban caps on coverage, the Repeal Republicans sided with the insurance industry and opposed it. Now they want to repeal it.

We really shouldn't be surprised. The Repeal Republicans are the same ones who want to dismantle Medicare as we know it and who want to privatize Social Security.

THE GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there has been an unfortunate and devastating accident in the Gulf of Mexico that caused the death of 11 workers. Now we must deal with the attendant oil spill estimated at 42,000 gallons a day. To provide a bit of perspective, the gallon capacity of an Olympic-size swimming pool is 648,000. At the current spill rate, it will take 15½ days to spill the equivalent of an Olympic-sized pool.

Historic production of oil from the Gulf is 1.7 million barrels per day. The U.S. consumes about 19.5 million barrels a day. There will be those who will say this spill is reason enough to cut off future offshore oil production. That would be disingenuous.

Until this accident, the industry has had an impeccable record in the Gulf. According to Amy Myers Jaffe, an energy expert at Rice University, in the last 15 years, there was not a single spill of more than 1,000 barrels among the 4,000 active platforms offshore. She said offshore drilling was considerably safer for the environment than the tankers used for importing oil.

We need to clean up the spill, not use it as a political football.

STOP WALL STREET FROM GAMBLING WITH OUR ECONOMIC SECURITY

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, the executives on Wall Street reaped rewards by bending the rules and dodging financial regulation. Then they turned to the American taxpayer to dig them out. With Wall Street reform, average Americans will never again be on the hook for Wall Street's mistakes. We, quite simply, put an end to the taxpayer-funded bailouts.

Our legislation will make big banks accountable for their own failures and give regulators the tools they need to put the interest of working- and middle-class Americans first. Wall Street reform stands up for working- and middle-class families by putting a stop to the unregulated greed of Wall Street executives who took big bonuses while gambling with our homes, our jobs, and our economy.

Additionally, Democrats are continuing to make investments in small businesses and rebuilding America's infrastructure. Small businesses are the engine of job creation in this country and will be the birthplace of our economic recovery. That's why we are working to partner with small businesses to help them grow and to expand so they can hire more workers.

I encourage the American people to stand strong with Democrats to stop Wall Street from gambling with our economic security.